

## **Steller Parent Group Meeting September 4, 2013--Draft**

Call to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Greetings and Introductions** Jennifer Hall Jones – Chair, Rebecca Johnson, Kyle Bates, Molly Bates, Kim Styker, Ken Varee, Barbara Wolforth, Brad Keene, Colleen Bickford, Teri Rose, Bruce Robson, Alyse Galvin, Charlene Juliussen, Michael Snow, Ed Toal, Michele Brannon, Sharon Holland, Kristen Falke, Haley Brannon, Heidi Smith, Dale Evenr, Marla Sanders, Charles Wohlforth, Sherry Borer – Treasurer, Ty Nesheim, Janine Nesheim - Secretary

**Minutes Review:** Minutes approved from August mtg.

**Approve Agenda:**

**Old Business:**

*Revisiting Short and Long Term Goals in preparation for next month's All Community Meeting - October:* Jennifer asked those present to engage in a goal setting exercise by rating ideas from last year's All Community Meeting. Alyse G. offered to turn the current goals into a survey monkey so that all staff, students and parents would have the opportunity to have a voice in the process. The upcoming Fall community meeting is all about goal setting, sponsored by Ad Board. Spring meeting's agenda is to recap the year and review progress. Also, always able to call another All Community Meeting if desired. Suggestions - town hall style all community meetings; adding another section indicating "I would like to see this and I would like to assist with this"; focus on positive planning, rather than into a complaining session; add "what else would you like to see?"; fewer all community meetings with stronger purpose; e.g. going beyond the conceptual and moving to action (more efficient use of time).

*Auction/Fundraising/Escrip:* Rebecca

Auction came about because we needed to find a way to fund travel intensives, originally run by teachers. For the past few years Parent Group has taken the lead successfully generating an increasing amount of money. We have people to volunteer; we need project leads. In addition to providing funds for Souper Steller, funds are also now extended to include peer-taughts and special student projects. Concern is that parent assistance for fundraising leadership is diminished, and new help is required to continue funding as well as to secure the passage of knowledge/torch. If people do not step forward,

another way of raising money may be required. Examples are grants, requiring knowledge of grant writing, and Escrip which, once established and promoted, relatively runs itself. Understanding the auction software, organizing volunteers, and planning, all part of time commitment required. Last year \$12,000 was raised during the auction, and \$4000 was raised for passion project (2012/2013 was Souper Steller).

Suggestions - co-chairs or tri-chairs to run auction to spread time commitment; send notice in Flash indicating deadline.

*Souper Steller:* Haley

Started as service project by a student. Free soup made every 2 weeks on a Friday. Thursday before is preparation by parents and students. Bread/rolls also made. Kitchen approved by the Municipal Health Department. While soup is free, donations are always welcome. Advisory groups decide soup menu for the week they sign up for. At least two types of soup served, and at least one is vegetarian. If the student brings their own bowl they get to jump in the front of the line. Parents come in to help during their lunch hour; preparation on Thursdays from 2 - 4, Friday morning anytime from 8:30 to 11:30, service from 11:40 to 12:30, then clean up! Notice will go out to the Flash: volunteers needed for compiling manual, doing laundry, shopping. Soup Team Meeting September 10<sup>th</sup> at lunchtime in MPR. Roughly \$250 - \$300 needed / week to operate; ~\$4000 for the 2013/2014 year.

**Reports:**

*PG Treasurer:* Sherry

Review of budget; \$7100 income from families during registration; \$5586 balance from last year; total is ~\$12,000; ~\$3000 left for Souper Steller for this school year. Budget will be reviewed next meeting.

*Principal's:* Dale

Student safety, rock climbing wall installation, requests that newsletter update to include parent input; fines due before participating in activities, not to be confused with class fee. Thanks to all parents for their participation. Also, new secretary for Steller plans to start on September 18<sup>th</sup>. Please be kind to Michelle for the 6 jobs she has been doing since April.

*Staff:* Marla

Very happy to be here. Advisory groups have met; discussion of soup, student confusion about when they were to help last year; schedule was

made to assist.

*Ken: "Overnighter"*

Stellar tradition at least 15 years running with different transitions and focus. Originally created to provide a safe alternative to end of year party; outside activities after school with lock down back at school at 10pm and parents, staff and students involved. Has become less staff involved as staff has aged, with other commitments, and more of a burden. Was broached last year to change the hours (make it fewer), and then again this year. The current seniors; 23 to 9 voted against having the overnighter this year in the spring, 2014. Seniors want something, but maybe not overnight event. Athletic events, SAT tests, jobs next day commitments to consider. Staff also voted 17 to 2 against. Sleep deprivation also cited as a risky side effect. He would like to propose that at the next parent group meeting the discussion continue: there will be one student for and one student against speak, will also have all school meeting to discuss, and will have this discussion at op group before decision made for or against continuing the current version of the "overnighter". Discussion - traditions may inhibit new innovative event because all energy is focused on upholding tradition. Dale is only member who continually attends all stages of event and willing to continue; kids turn into zombies around 2, and may not be a healthy situation. Through adversity comes a lifelong memory. Suggestion; have 2 fun community nights (game night?) instead of one all night event. Senior responsibility to pass torch by providing fun night for younger classes; they enjoyed it when they were youngers, their responsibility to support upcoming students. In closing, if we decide not to do this overnighter; may lose ability to do this. Superintendent has given approval to continue if Principal asks. This is by word only, not in writing.

*Ad Board: No report.*

*Op Group: Haley*

Dances coming up soon; 3 groups competing for September dance. Dances occur every month, student sponsors must sign up and ask for approval from Op group. September dance gets most money, so everyone wants to do it. Proposals are voted on at Op group. Dances must be either a fundraiser towards prom/ class project or go to the community (AWAIC shelter, dog rescue etc.). First dance is 9/20/13.

## **New Business**

*Election of Parent Group Officers: Jennifer*

### Summary of Parent Group

Jennifer Hall Jones is current Chair (~ 5 hours / month time commitment dedicated as Chair on weeks there is a meeting)

Sherry Borer volunteers to be Treasurer again

Janine Nesheim volunteers to be Secretary again (~1 hour / month time commitment)

Colleen Bickford volunteers to be Co-Secretary

### *Election of Ad Board Parent Representatives:*

Need 5 new people + 1 Alternate; 2 have to be a new-to-Steller parent. 3 or 4 from last year are carrying over to this year. It is a 2 year commitment. Ad Board meets once a month, or as needed. Generally meets third Thursday of the month 6:30 - 8:00, except this September it meets on the second Thursday, the 12<sup>th</sup>. Ideally would like the parent representative(s) to attend both Parent Group meeting and Ad Board meeting to provide continuity.

Kyle Bates (new-to-Steller)

Molly Bates (new-to-Steller and Alternate)

Kristen Falke (new-to-Steller)

Alyse Galvin

Teri Rose (new-to-Steller)

Bruce Robson (new-to-Steller)

*Archivist:* Volunteer still needed.

*Staff appreciation lunches:* Volunteer needed; several people have indicated interest.

### **Adjournment**

Adjourned at 7:50 p.m.